

*Pomacanthus xanthurus* (Bleeker 1853)  
Yellowface Angelfish

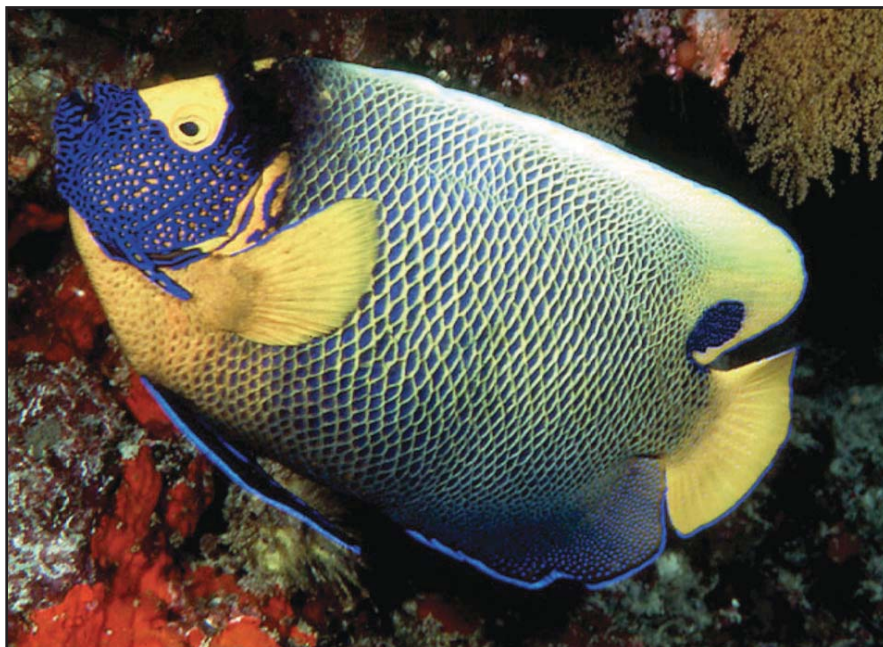


Photo by J. Randall, Bishop Museum

**Identification:** Juveniles have six white bars along the sides with smaller, less-conspicuous pale-blue lines in between them. There is a blue margin around the body and the caudal fin is dark blue with blue bars. Adults have yellow dorsal and caudal fins edged in blue. There is a prominent blue spot at the posterior base of the dorsal fin. Scales on the body are blue with yellow edges, giving the effect of a net-like pattern. The breast and pectoral region are yellow with blue spotting; the head is blue with yellow spots and a yellow eye-mask. Juveniles assume coloration of adults at 7-12 cm TL. Grows to 38 cm TL. Also known as the Yellow-mask Angelfish or Blue-face Angelfish. Dorsal fin XIII or XIV (16-17), anal fin III (16-18). From Allen et al. (1998) and Randall et al. (1996).

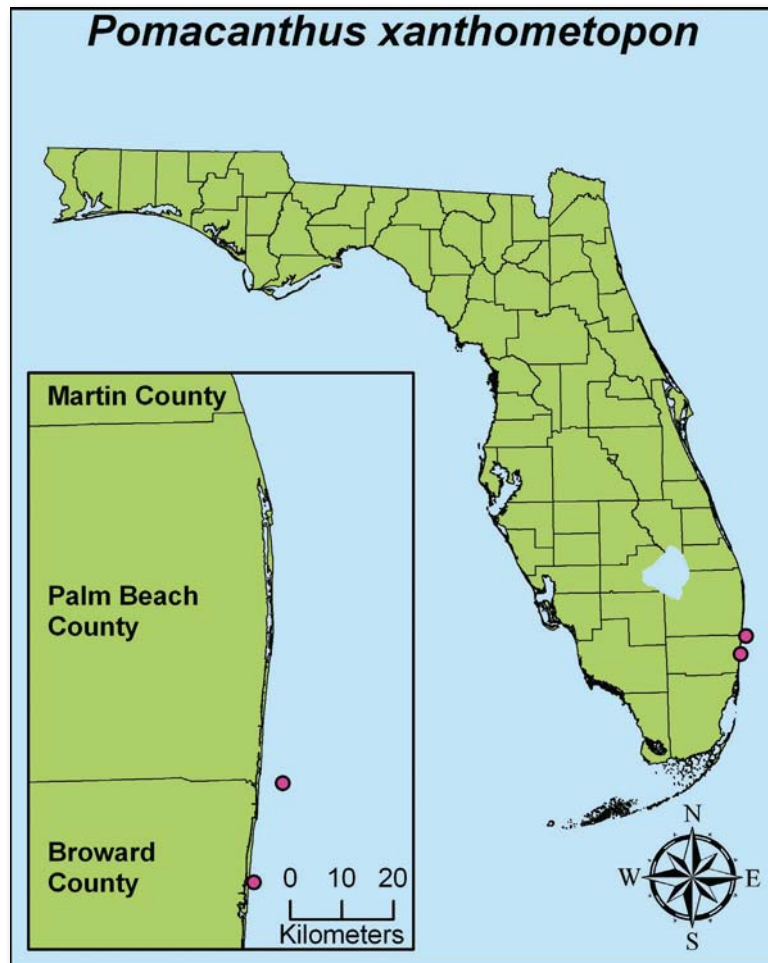
**Similar Species:** Queen Angelfish (*Holacanthus ciliaris*) has dark blue crown on forehead. Blue Angelfish (*Holacanthus bermudensis*) has blue wash on forehead. Neither have a dark spot at the base of the dorsal fin.

**Native Range:** Broadly distributed in the Indo-West Pacific from the Maldives, Indo-Australian Archipelago to Vanuatu, northward to Ryuku Islands and south to the Great Barrier Reef (Allen et al. 1998).

**Ecology:** The species inhabits lagoons, channels and outer-reef slopes where coral growth is prolific; especially areas with caves or large crevices. Found in depths from six to 60 m. It feeds on sponges and tunicates, and

is generally solitary. From Allen et al. (1998 and 2003).

**Nonindigenous Occurrences:** There is an unconfirmed record of the occurrence of the species in south Florida offshore Broward and Palm Beach counties (Courtenay 1995). It was also observed in 2006 off Ft. Lauderdale.



*Pomacanthidae (angelfishes)*